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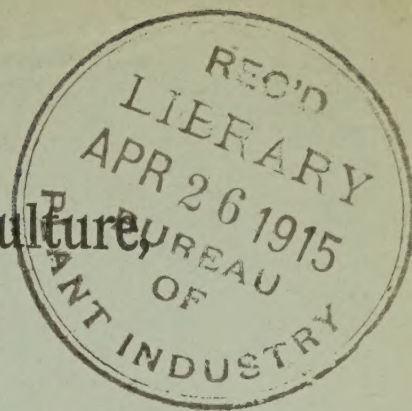


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## FURZE OR GORSE (*Ulex europaeus*).

Furze, also known as gorse, is a spiny, leguminous, low-growing shrub, a native of northern Europe. The leaves are very small and spiny, while the twigs are evergreen. Its spines retard the utilization of this shrub as forage, although in Europe it is planted more or less on sandy and rocky land and cut and fed green during the winter. Cattle and sheep are also allowed to browse upon it. It is a valuable forage plant for dry and barren hillsides, in places too steep or where the soil is too thin to admit of the cultivation of better ones. In some parts of Ireland and Wales the farm horses are almost entirely maintained upon it during the winter months, the crushed 2-year-old branches being fed at the rate of about 40 pounds a day. From 20 to 25 pounds of seed are required for an acre. Sheep are very fond of and fatten quickly upon it. It is necessary to cut it back every year, so that the tender branches are available for forage. Furze has been used to some extent in the Pacific coast region as a sand-binding plant, but very little use has been made of it in this country as a forage plant. The plant is still in the experimental stage and any seedlings should be made on a small scale and, if possible, under varying conditions, in order to determine its requirements as to time and manner of seeding, treatment, etc. Inoculation in some form should be provided. Soil from inoculated furze plants is usually not available in this country, but pure cultures may usually be obtained free from the United States Department of Agriculture. The seed of furze frequently fails to germinate, owing apparently to the hard seed coat. If only a small quantity of the seed is sown it can be scratched by rubbing it between two pieces of sandpaper. When once the glossy seed coat is scratched, the moisture is able to enter and render the germination much more prompt. It is said that in Scotland it is the practice to embed the seeds in a rope made of twisted hay and then to bury the hay rope in the soil.

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